

Washington, DC - Today marks the 30th anniversary of the YouthBuild program, which helps children to rebuild their communities. Congressman Charlie Gonzalez (TX-20) issued the following words of congratulations.

“I congratulate Dorothy Stoneman and the YouthBuild team on 30 years of changing lives and building stronger communities. By providing these children with a second chance and a deeper link to their neighbors, YouthBuild gives them the opportunity they need and a reason to pursue it. These children are building homes in their own communities, and building a brighter future for themselves at the same time. I am proud to have supported YouthBuild in San Antonio and across the country.”

Dorothy Stoneman, the president of [YouthBuild USA](#), founded the program in 1979 as “Youth Action Program”, helping teenagers in East Harlem, New York to renovate a local tenement. Over the following 30 years, the program has spread to 44 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands. With 15 high schools in San Antonio struggling with some of the highest drop-out rates in Texas, the importance of [San Antonio Youth Centers](#) and Alamo City YouthBuild could not be any clearer. San Antonio Youth Centers runs the local YouthBuild program, helping high school dropouts to earn a GED, high school diploma, or construction skills certificate while they are rehabilitating run-down homes for low income families. Graduates have gone on to colleges and trade schools or begun successful careers with local construction companies.

###